

Claim Listing

1. (previously presented) A method for representing production devices on a network, the method comprising:
 - hosting an interface for one or more production devices, each interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for a target document;
 - providing the interface for a selected one of the production devices to a client upon receipt from the client of a production request for the target document; and
 - managing the production of the target document for the selected production device using production options selected through the interface.
2. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising detecting new production devices connected to the network, and hosting an interface for each new production device.
3. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2, further comprising:
 - acquiring production logic for each detected production device, the production logic including data for generating a user interface having particular controls for selecting production options for that detected production device;
 - using the production logic for each detected device, generating an interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for and directing production of a document on that detected production device; and
 - associating the generated interface with a network address.
4. (original) The method of Claim 3, wherein the act of acquiring comprises identifying the new device and acquiring production logic for the identified device from a device information service.
5. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein each interface is a web page associated with a network address, the act of hosting comprises hosting each interface on a web server, and the act of providing comprises providing the interface to a web browser.

6. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the interface is hosted and production of the document is managed on a device other than the production device.

7. (previously presented) A method for representing production devices on a network, the method comprising:

- detecting new production devices connected to the network;
- using production logic for each detected device, generating an interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for and directing production of a document on that detected production device;
- hosting the generated interface for each production device;
- providing the interface for a particular production device to a client upon receipt from the client of a production request for a target document; and
- managing the production of the target document for the particular production device using production options selected through the interface.

8. (previously presented) A method for managing electronic document production over a computer network, the method comprising:

- a proxy service receiving a production request;
- the proxy service, returning an interface having user accessible controls for identifying a target document and for selecting production options for the target document;
- the proxy service receiving identification of a target document and production options selected through the user interface; and
- the proxy service managing production of the identified target document for the production device using production options selected through the interface.

9. (cancelled).

10. (cancelled)

11. (original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the proxy service includes a web server and the interface is a web page; and the act of returning includes returning the web page.

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the act of managing includes merging the document with the selected production options into a production plan and delivering the production plan in a device-understood format to the production device.

15. (original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the proxy service operates on a device other than the production device.

16. (previously presented) A computer program product for managing electronic document production over a computer network, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions thereon for:

receiving, from a client, a production request for a production device for a target document;

in response to the production request, returning to the client an interface for the production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for the target document;

managing the production of the target document using production options selected through the interface.

17. (original) The product of Claim 16, further comprising instructions for acquiring a target document and wherein the instructions for returning and managing comprise instructions for returning an interface for selecting production options for the target document and managing production of the target document.

18. (original) The product of Claim 16, further comprising instructions for detecting new production devices and generating an interface for each new production device detected.

19. (original) The product of Claim 16, further comprising instructions for identifying each new production device detected and acquiring production logic used to generate an interface for that production device.

20. (original) The product of Claim 19, wherein the instructions for acquiring the production logic comprise instructions for acquiring the production logic from a device information service.

21. (original) The product of Claim 16, wherein the instructions for receiving and managing comprise instructions for receiving and managing to be executed by a device other than the production device.

22. (previously presented) A system for representing production devices on a network, comprising:

a database containing production logic for one or more production devices, the production logic for each production device including data for generating a user interface having particular controls for selecting production options;

an interface generator operable to access production logic for a production device in the database and, following receipt of a production request for a target document, to serve an interface for the production device, the interface, being generated according to the accessed production logic, having user accessible controls for selecting production options for the target document; and

a production engine, in electronic communication with the interface generator, the production engine operable to manage production of the target document for the production device using production options selected through the interface.

23. (original) The system of Claim 22, wherein the production engine includes:
a plan generator operable to merge the document with the production options selected through the interface; and
a device driver operable deliver the production plan to the production device.

24. (original) The system of Claim 22, further comprising a service engine operable to detect new production devices and to acquire production logic for each the detected production device.

25. (original) The system of Claim 24, wherein the service engine includes:
a device locator operable to detect and identify new devices present on the network; and

an update service operable to acquire the production logic for each of the detected devices and update the database with the acquired production logic.

26. (original) The system of Claim 22, wherein the interface generator is a web server and the interface is a web page.

27. (original) The system of Claim 22, wherein the interface generator and the production engine each operate on a device other than the production device.

28. (previously presented) A system for representing production devices on a network, comprising:

a database containing production logic for one or more production devices, the production logic for each production device including data for generating a user interface having particular controls for selecting production options;;

a device locator operable to detect and identify new devices present on the network;

an update service operable to acquire the production logic for each of the detected devices and update the database with the acquired production logic;

an interface generator operable to access the production logic for a production device in the database and serve an interface for the production device, the interface being generated to include user accessible controls for selecting production options for a document as specified by the production logic for that production device;

a plan generator operable to merge the document with production options selected through the interface; and

a device driver operable to deliver the production plan to the production device.

29. (previously presented) In a computer network, a system for managing electronic document production over a computer network, the system comprising:

- one or more production devices;
- a client operable to identify a target document, select one of the one or more production devices, and direct a production request to the selected production device;
- a proxy service in electronic communication with the client and the production device, the proxy service operable to return, in response to receiving a production request, to the client an interface for selecting production options for the selected production device and to manage the production of the target document for the selected production device using production options selected through the interface.

30. (original) The system of Claim 29 wherein the proxy service includes a web server, the interface is a web page, and the client is a web browser.

31. (previously presented) The system of Claim 29, wherein the proxy service includes:

- a database containing production logic for at least one of the one or more production devices, the production logic for a given production device including data for generating a user interface having particular controls for selecting production options for that production device;
- an interface generator operable to access the production logic in the database and serve the interface for the selected production device, the interface being generated according to the production logic for the selected production device; and
- a production engine operable to manage production of the document on the production device in accordance with the selected production options.

32. (original) The system of Claim 29, further comprising:

- a device locator operable to detect and identify new production devices present on the network; and
- an update service operable to acquire the production logic for each of the detected devices and update the database with the acquired production logic.

33. (original) The system of Claim 29 wherein the client operates on a first network device and the proxy service operates on a second network device different from the first network device.

34. (original) The system of Claim 29, wherein the proxy service operates on a device other than the selected production device.

35. (previously presented) In a computer network, a system for managing electronic document production over a computer network, the system comprising:

- one or more production devices;
- a database containing production logic for one or more production devices, the production logic for a given production device including data for generating a user interface having particular controls for selecting production options for that production device;
- a device locator operable to detect and identify new devices present on the network;
- an update service operable to acquire the production logic for each of the detected devices and update the database with the acquired production logic;
- a client operable to identify a target document, select one of the one or more production devices, and direct a production request to the selected production device;
- an interface generator operable to access the production logic for the selected production device in the database and serve an interface for the selected production device, the interface being generated to include user accessible controls for selecting production options for the target document as specified by the production logic for that production device;
- a plan generator operable to acquire the target document and merge it with production options selected through the interface forming a production plan; and
- a device driver operable deliver the production plan to the production device.

36. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein each interface has user accessible controls for identifying a target document and for selecting production options for the target document, and wherein managing comprises managing, for the selected

production device, the production of the target document identified through the interface using production options selected through the interface.

37. (new) The product of Claim 16, wherein:

the instructions for returning comprise instructions for returning to the client an interface for the production device, the interface having user accessible controls for identifying the target document and for selecting production options for the target document;

the instructions for managing comprise instructions for managing the production of the target document identified through the interface using production options selected through the interface.